

molding operation. There is no need to receive and store preformed molding pellets of fiber reinforced resin at the molding machine site. Rather, the molding material comprised of fibers cut to a predetermined length and coated and encapsulated in thermoplastic resin is prepared at the site and fed to the molding machine as part of a continuous molding operation. Advantageously, the fibers may be supplied in the desired length and in the desired weight ratio to the resin in order to achieve the particular physical properties desired in the product being molded. Maximum flexibility of molding operations for different applications is thus achieved.

It is anticipated that various changes and modifications may be made in the apparatus and process described herein, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the following claims. For example, it is anticipated that impellers or pumping devices other than those described herein with respect to conveying device 12 may be utilized to satisfactorily pull and push coated fiber strands through a coating die and into a receiving device. Also, in addition to the types of molding apparatus described above, the apparatus and process of this invention may be used with profile extruding equipment. In such an application, the hot resin and fiber mixture would be fed from nozzle 101 or 152 into the extruder feeding the extrusion die of a profile extruder as used to make, e.g., plastic pipe.